Jeffrey A. Mitchell 8300 Greensboro Dr. Suite 1200 Tysons, VA 22102

NOT ADMITTED IN VA
jmitchell@fcclaw.com
(703) 584-8685
WWW.FCCLAW.COM



April 12, 2018

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204 Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* in WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 17-310, 02-6, 13-184

## Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceedings. On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, John Windhausen, Executive Director of the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, Colleen Meiman, Senior Policy Advisor at the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), and undersigned counsel, met with Amy Bender, Wireline Legal Advisor to Commissioner O'Rielly.

We discussed SHLB's recently filed emergency petition for waiver of the Rural Health Care Program funding cap, pending completion of the RHC rulemaking.<sup>1</sup> We noted how the large and effectively retroactive funding cuts in the RHC program are impacting safety-net health care providers and undermining federal policies promoting telemedicine and electronic health records which require affordable broadband connectivity. We also discussed the SHLB Coalition's comments in response to the current Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order in the Rural Health Care (RHC) program.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See SHLB Coalition, <u>Emergency Petition For Waiver of The Rural Health Care Program Funding Cap Pending Conclusion Of The Open Rulemaking</u>, WC Docket Nos. 02-60, 17-310, filed April 3, 2018.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Promoting Telehealth in Rural America, WC Docket No. 17-310, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order, FCC 17-164 (Dec. 18, 2017) (NPRM & Order).

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Finally, Mr. Windhausen discussed recent meetings that SHLB Coalition members had with USAC and other FCC 8th Floor offices concerning the effects of recent USAC changes to the Form 470 data entry process.<sup>3</sup>

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Mitchell

Counsel to the SHLB Coalition

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See SHLB Coalition, *Ex Parte Submission*, WC Docket Nos. 02-6, 13-184, filed April 9, 2018.